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ABSTRACT

One of the first tasks in developing the academic achievement indicator for the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program was to survey each province and territory about existing student assessment and examination practices. Survey results are reported. There is considerable diversity in Canadian assessment and evaluation practices because jurisdictions base their assessment programs on their own programs of study. No common instrument is used by all the provinces. Although several jurisdictions use the Canadian Tests of Basic Skills or the Canadian Achievement Test, only Newfoundland and the Yukon mandate these assessments. All but Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories had some type of provincial assessment in the 1993-94 school year. Subjects usually focus on the basics, and jurisdictions usually assess two or more levels, usually on a rotating cycle. Nine jurisdictions have high school exit examinations for graduating students, but there is no common postsecondary test. Individual reports for each of 13 jurisdictions are provided. Two tables provide national summary results. (SLD)

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Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program

A Survey of Student Assessment/Evaluation in Canada

Alberta Working Group

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Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program

A Survey of Student Assessment/Evaluation in Canada

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Alberta Working Group

December 1994

Alberta Working Group
for Academic Achievement

This survey was undertaken as part of the development of the Academic Achievement Indicator for the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program. Alberta is leading the development of this area.

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Representatives from the provinces and territories reviewed earlier drafts in fall 1994 to ensure that the information from each jurisdiction was accurate.

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A Survey of Student Assessment/Evaluation in Canada

One of the first tasks in developing the academic achievement indicator for the Plan-Canadian Education Indicators Program was to survey each province and territory about existing student assessment and examination practices. (Province will be used hereafter to refer to both provinces and territories.) An instrument was developed and sent to members of the Program Liaison Committee asking them to complete the survey and return it by April 1994. Provincial representatives subsequently received a copy of the completed survey for their jurisdiction to ensure that the information was correctly transcribed and interpreted.

There is considerable diversity in Canadian assessment and examination practices. Jurisdictions base their assessment programs on their own programs of study. No common instrument was used by all provinces. Several indicated that their districts used the *Canadian Tests of Basic Skills* or the *Canadian Achievement Test*, but only two jurisdictions (Newfoundland and the Yukon) mandated these tests for their students.

Table 1 summarizes the results according to type of program. Assessment programs provide a way of determining what students have learned; the marks are typically not used in assigning grades to students. High school exit examinations certify student achievement. Canadian post-secondary institutions use these marks (usually blended with teacher-assigned marks) as a means of determining eligibility for further study.

All but two jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories) had some type of provincial assessment program in the 1993/94 school year. Subjects tend to focus on the basics – English or Français and mathematics – with some provinces including other courses as well. These assessment programs range from elementary to secondary students. Jurisdictions usually assess students at two or more levels, for example, grades 3, 6 and 9, or grades 4 and 8. Subjects are usually assessed on a rotating cycle.

Nine jurisdictions reported having high school exit examinations for graduating students. The Northwest Territories use the Alberta exams and the Yukon uses the British Columbia exams. The stakes for students range from 30 to 50 percent of the final mark in exam courses, with the remainder contributed by teachers for class work. Table 2 summarizes the results.

At the post-secondary level, there was no common test for all students. Some provinces indicated that journeymen are certified in a specific trade at the provincial level. This practice occurs in all provinces.

The individual reports for each jurisdiction follow. In addition to the status for the 1993/94 school year, each province indicated if it is planning changes to its assessment programs. Most provinces plan to increase the amount of student testing at the elementary and secondary levels in the future.

Table 1

A Summary of Provincial Assessment and Exit Examination Programs in 1994

Province/Territory	Provincial Assessment	High School Exit Examination
British Columbia	√	√
Alberta	√	√
Saskatchewan	√	√
Manitoba	√	√
Ontario	√	No
Quebec	√	√
New Brunswick (Anglophone)	√	No
New Brunswick (Francophone)	√	√
Nova Scotia	√	No
Prince Edward Island	No	No
Newfoundland	√	√
Northwest Territories	No	√[1]
Yukon	√	√[1]
Total	11	9

[1]The Northwest Territories use Alberta's high school curriculum and diploma exams, and the Yukon uses British Columbia's curriculum and diploma exams.

Table 2

Provincial Assessment and Exit Examination Programs across Canada in 1994

Province/Territory	Provincial Assessment		High School Exit Exam[1]
	Grades	Subjects	Subjects[2]
British Columbia	4, 7, 10	language arts, social studies, science, mathematics	English, English literature, French[3], Français[3], biology, communications, chemistry, physics, geology, geography, math, history, German, Latin, Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish
Alberta	3, 6, 9	English and French language arts, social studies, science, mathematics	English, Français, social studies, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics
Saskatchewan	5, 8, 11 K to 12 curriculum evaluations	language arts, mathematics language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health education, arts education, kindergarten, native studies, wellness, physical education	English, chemistry, social studies, history, histoire, physics, economics, biology, algebra, mathematics, geo-trig, French, Français
Manitoba	4, 8, S2, S3	reading, writing, mathematics, social, studies, science, physical education	language arts, math, biology, chemistry, physics, social studies
Ontario	9	English, Français	N/A

[1] A mark on a high school exit exam counts toward the final mark of a course.
[2] Does not include multiple levels of any course (e.g., academic, advanced).
[3] French (for English students) and Français (for French-speaking students).

Table 2 (continued)

Province/Territory	Provincial Assessment		High School Exit Exam[1]
	Grades	Subjects	Subjects[2]
Quebec	3, 6 SI to SV	Français, English English & French: math, economics, physics, chemistry, English (second language)	French & English: language (first and second), history, mathematics, physical sciences
New Brunswick (Anglophone)	8, 11, 12	English, French, math	N/A
New Brunswick (Francophone)	4, 8 10, 11	Français, math English (second language), math, history, geography, chemistry, physics	Français
Nova Scotia	5, 6 9, 12	English & French: language arts, math math, science, language arts, social studies	N/A
Prince Edward Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Newfoundland	3, 6	science, math, writing	language, literature, math, science, social studies, French
Northwest Territories	N/A	N/A	See Alberta.
Yukon	8 to 12	mathematics	See BC.

[1] A mark on a high school exit exam counts toward the final mark of a course.
[2] Does not include multiple levels of any course (e.g., academic, advanced).
[3] French (for English students) and Français (for French-speaking students).

British Columbia

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 4, 7, 10	Grade 12
Name	Provincial Learning Assessment Program (PLAP)	Provincial Examinations
Purposes	• To observe, measure and report on the development of students' subject knowledge, learning strategies, thinking processes, skills and attitudes. • To provide information to educators and the public about the educational development of students. • To compare student performance over time. • To relate student performance to classroom practice. • To provide models of exemplary assessment practices and administration. • To inform curriculum. • To validate "reference sets" and set performance standards (also at the secondary level).	To ensure that our education system: • provides a provincial standard in examinable subjects for graduating students; • is accountable to the public by reporting achievement throughout the province and builds public confidence in the system; and • provides an equitable basis for making decisions related to post-secondary admissions and employment.
Format	Multiple choice and open-ended	Multiple choice and open-ended. Video component in French and Français-Langue; oral component in Français-Langue.
Type	Criterion referenced	Criterion referenced
Subjects/Grades	Language Arts 4, 7, 10 Mathematics 4, 7, 10 Science 4, 7, 10 Social Studies 4, 7, 10	Biology, Chemistry, Communications, English, English Literature, Français-Langue, French, Geography, Geology, German, History, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin, Mathematics, Physics, and Spanish (with Punjabi to be added in 1996/97)

British Columbia

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests (continued)

	Grades 4, 7, 10	Grade 12
Frequency	Rotating cycle, approximately every four years for each subject area.	Exams in all subject areas are offered at the June and August examination sessions, every year. Selected subjects are also offered for examination in November, January and April.
Sample (State %) or all students	In the past, all students in grades 4, 7, and 10 (census).	All students who are registered in examination courses.
Stakes for individual student	None	40% of final subject mark
Reporting	Provincial and district	Student, school, district, province

2. Other Tests

The Canadian Tests of Basic Skills and the Canadian Achievement Test are used by districts, at their discretion. The province does not mandate or recommend the use of such tests. No information is available on the proportion of districts using them, though certainly less than half of the 75 districts use them.

The General Education Development Testing Program is offered in colleges throughout the province. School Districts are not involved in the program. The Ministry of Education accepts applications and fees, and organizes six testing dates between September and June of each school year.

3. New tests planned or under development.

In 1993/94, as part of PLAP, a Communication Skills Assessment took place involving a sample of approximately 10% of grades 1-12 students. The assessment included multiple choice, open-ended and classroom observation components.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

None.

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Alberta

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 3, 6, 9	Grade 12
Name	Provincial Achievement Test	Diploma Examinations
Purposes	1. To determine the percentage of students meeting provincial standards. 85% of all students are expected to achieve the acceptable standard or higher which includes 15% of all students expected to achieve the standard of excellence; 15% of students may not be able to demonstrate achievement of the acceptable standard. 2. To provide schools and districts with information to support instruction.	1. To certify individual student achievement in selected grade 12 courses. 2. To ensure that province-wide standards of achievement are maintained. 3. To provide schools and districts with results.
Format	Multiple choice, numerical and written response, performance tasks, and student and teacher questionnaires.	Multiple choice, numerical and written response.
Type	Criterion referenced to Program of Studies	Criterion referenced to Program of Studies
Subjects/Grades	**1994** Mathematics 3 Science 6 Language Arts 9 Social Studies – Prior to 1995, subjects were rotated each year. **1995** Mathematics 3, 6, 9 Language Arts 3, 6, 9 Social Studies 6, 9 Science 6, 9 Performance assessments at each grade level 3, 6, 9.	**1994** Mathematics 30 Chemistry 30 English 30, 33 Biology 30 Social Studies 30 Français 30 Physics 30 **1996** To be added to above: Science 30 Social Studies 33 Mathematics 33
Frequency	Annually	January, June, and August
Sample (State %) or all students	All students in grades 3, 6, and 9 take the test; 1.5-2.0% of the students take the performance assessments.	All students enrolled in the course.
Stakes for individual student	None (In 1995, may be part of course work.)	50% of final mark.
Reporting	Provincial, district, school, student	Provincial, district, school, student

Alberta

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

2. Other Tests

	Grades 3, 6, 9		Grade 12	
Canadian Tests of Basic Skills and Canadian Achievement Test	School/district/teacher decision		School/district/teacher decision	
GED Test			Yes	
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	**CTBS** **CAT** **Other**	Discretionary at the school and district level.	**CTBS** **CAT** **GED** **Other**	Discretionary at the school and district level.
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	 **CTBS** **CAT**	Estimates 50% 40%	**CTBS** **CAT**	unknown unknown

3. New tests planned or under development.

Science 30 – 1996
Mathematics 33 – 1996
Social Studies 33 – 1996

Classroom assessment materials, grades 1-12, reflecting provincial standards in key areas; for teachers' discretionary use in 1997.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

No common test.

Trade Certification

The province administers trade-specific examinations for journeyman certification. Curriculum for institutional training for each trade is set by industry.

Journeyman examinations are conducted at the end of a training period, and the period varies by trade (2 to 4 years).

Reasons for provincial journeyman examinations:

(1) Journeyman certification (or registered apprenticeship status) is required by law to practice in certain trades.

(2) The provincial examination also is intended to ensure that institutions and trainees meet industry- set training standard.

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Saskatchewan

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	K to 12	Grade 12
Name	1. Provincial Learning Assessment Program 2. Curriculum Evaluation Program	Grade 12 Provincial Examinations Program
Purpose	1. To provide information on the extent to which students are acquiring "basic" knowledge and skills. 2. To monitor the effectiveness of new core curricula.	"Exit" examination for grade 12 students.
Format	Multiple choice, open-ended, performance, questionnaires	Multiple choice and open-ended response items
Type	Curriculum and criterion-referenced tests	Curriculum and norm-referenced tests
Subjects/Grades	1. Mathematics and language arts grades 5, 8, and 11 2. Depends on developmental level of the curriculum being implemented. K-12 mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, health education, arts education, kindergarten, native studies, wellness, physical education	Grade 12: English A30, B30; Chemistry 30; Social Studies 30; Histoire 30; Physics 30 (Core); Chemistry 30 (Core); Economics 30; Algebra 30; Biology 30 (Core); French 30; Mathematics 30; Geo-Trig 30; Français A30, B30; Mathematics A30, B30 (Pilot): BSCS Biology 30, Modern Biology 30, Physics 30, Social Studies History 30
Frequency	1. Mathematics and language arts on a rotating basis annually. 2. Follows implementation schedule of the core curriculum. Once the core curriculum has been implemented, K-12 assessments will be conducted annually on a rotating basis.	January, June, August annually.
Sample (State %) or all students	Approximately 25% student samples.	All students of non-accredited teachers registered in these subjects.

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests (continued)

	K to 12	Grade 12
Stakes for individual student	No individual student results.	For students involved, the provincial exam counts for 50% of their final mark of record on the grade 12 subject.
Reporting (local, provincial, etc.)	Results reported provincially.	Individual student records. Summary, provincial statistics are published.

2. Other Tests

Canadian Tests of Basic Skills, Canadian Achievement Test	None of these tests are mandated by the province. Schools and school divisions have discretion in using them.	
GED Test		GED 12 - 2,672 wrote (Adults) 1993 - 1,677 passed Normed on Grade 12 students (1992)
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?		GED - Individual adult choice. OTHER - School division discretion to be part of norming process.
What proportion of school districts use these tests?		GED - Administered through regional colleges/ SIAST for adults (19+).

3. New tests planned or under development.

It is intended that the language arts provincial learning assessment will develop a listening and speaking component to complement the reading and writing component now in place.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

No common tests.

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Manitoba

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 4, 8, S2, S3	Senior 4
Name	Curriculum Assessment Program	Examinations Program
Purpose	To monitor curriculum implementation at the provincial level.	To certify student achievement.
Format	Multiple choice, written responses	Multiple choice, written responses
Type	Criterion referenced	Criterion referenced
Subjects/Grades	Reading 4, 8, S3 Writing 4, 8, S3 Social Studies 4, 8, S2 Science 4, 8 Physical Education 4, 8, S3 Mathematics 3, 6, S1, S4 Prior to 1988, grades 3, 6, S1 and one other Senior grade level were assessed.	Language Arts S4 Mathematics S4 Biology S4 Physics S4 Chemistry S4 Social Studies S4 (World Issues, World Geography and Le monde contemporain)
Frequency	One or more subject tested every year.	One subject every year
Sample (State %) or all students	Sample (5-25%) or total population depending on client group.	All students enrolled in these subjects.
Stakes for individual student	None	30% of final mark.
Reporting	Provincial – one report per client group: English, Immersion and Franco-Manitoban.	Provincial, divisional, school in French or English.

NB: Provincial tests are administered in the language of instruction: English or French.

Manitoba

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

2. Other Tests

	Grades 4, 8, S2, S3	Senior 4
Canadian Tests of Basic Skills	Local decision	Local decision
Canadian Achievement Test	Local decision	Local decision
GED Test	N/A	Provincial administration
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	Discretionary	Discretionary
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	Not known	Not known

3. New tests planned or under development.

Examinations Program

- World Issues Senior 4, January and June 1995
- Le monde contemporain Senior 4, January and June 1995
- World Geography Senior 4, January and June 1995
- Language Arts Senior 4, January and June 1996
- Mathematics Senior 4, January and June 1996

In July 1994, the Minister of Education and Training released *Renewing Education: New Directions – A Blueprint for Action* which calls for the introduction of a comprehensive testing program in core subject areas at Grades 3, 6, Senior 1 and 4. Preliminary work on this major initiative is currently under way.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

No common test.

For further information: Carolyn Loeppky
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Ontario

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Elementary	Grade 9
Name	None	Grade 9 Reading and Writing
Purposes		Program Evaluation Feedback to students on level of performance
Format		Composition Written responses Multiple choice
Type (CRT, NRT)		Criterion referenced
Subjects/Grades		Grade 9 English Grade 9 Français
Frequency		1993/94 1994/95
Sample (State %) or all students		All students
Stakes for individual student		Students receive results but the results are not used to assign grades.
Reporting		The ministry releases provincial reports and delivers board and school reports to directors of education. Alphabetic listings showing the aggregate results for each board are also released by the ministry.

2. Other Tests

Canadian Tests of Basic Skills	Individual school boards make their own decisions.	Individual school boards
Canadian Achievement Test	Individual school boards	Individual school boards
GED Test	No	No
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	**CTBS** School Boards **CAT** School Boards	**CTBS** School Boards **CAT** School Boards
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	**CTBS** Not known **CAT** Not known	**CTBS** Not known **CAT** Not known

Ontario

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

3. New tests planned or under development.

No. We are developing an assessment policy framework. A multi-year schedule for testing will be announced in 1995. Provincial reviews were conducted for program evaluation with samples of students from 1987 to 1992 in the following:

Geography 9 and 10	Chemistry 11
Physics 12	Mathematics 6, 8, 10, 12
Reading 6	Writing 12

We conduct reviews of examinations for Ontario Academic Courses to maintain consistency in evaluation practices across schools. (OAC Teacher Inservice Program)

A handbook is prepared by the Ministry of Education and Training that contains specifications for the development of the examination. Workshops on preparing and marking examinations are conducted for all teachers teaching a particular course. All schools must submit their examinations to the ministry for review by a provincial committee. The committee decides whether each examination conforms to the specifications in the handbook.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

No common test.

For further information: Rick Jones
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Quebec

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 3 and 6	Secondary
Name	Curriculum Tests	Curriculum Tests
Purpose	To assess the knowledge and skills set out in the Program of Studies.	To assess the knowledge and skills set out in the Program of Studies.
Format	Multiple choice and written response	Multiple choice and written response
Type	Criterion referenced Curriculum based	Criterion referenced Curriculum based
Subjects/Grades	Français 3 and 6 English (First Language) 6	Optional Curriculum Tests Mathematics (E & F) I Economics (E & F) V Physics (E & F) V Chemistry (E & F) V English (second language) IV
		Ministry Examinations The following are mandatory: Français III[1] Français V English V History (E & F)[2] IV French (second language) V English (second language) V Mathematics (E & F) IV Physical Sciences (E & F) IV
Frequency	June	January, June, August
Sample (State %) or all students	All students in classes where districts choose to use these tests.	All students in classes where districts choose to use these tests. Ministry examinations are mandatory.

[1]I to V correspond to grades 7 to 11.
[2](E & F) English and French.

Quebec

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests (continued)

	Grades 3 and 6	Secondary
Stakes for individual student	May serve for promotion from one class to another.	The optional curriculum tests may count for promotion or graduation. The mandatory ministry exams count for 50% of the final course mark. School-awarded marks are adjusted on the basis of the mean and standard deviation of the average school mark for all students in the same teacher-group and the average mark of the same group on the ministry exam.
Reporting	School reports	Secondary I, II and III – school reports. Secondary IV and V – provincial report and student transcripts.
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	Optional for curricular assessment. French 6 test is mandatory.	Optional for curriculum assessment. Ministry examinations are mandatory.
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	80 % use the curriculum tests. 100% take the grade 6 French test.	80% use the tests. 100% take the Ministry examinations.

2. Other Tests

None

3. New tests planned or under development.

None

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

Undergraduate degree:	None
Apprenticeship programs:	None
College diploma	None

For further information: Réjean Boily
Telephone: 418-646-1967 Fax: 418-644-6909

New Brunswick (Anglophone)

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 8, 11, 12
Name	Provincial Examinations
Purpose	To monitor student learning.
Format	multiple choice open response production
Type	Criterion referenced
Subjects/Grades	Mathematics Grade 11 English Grade 11 English Grade 8 French Grade 12
Frequency	Annually
Sample (State %) or all students	All students
Stakes for individual student	Grade 11 Mathematics and English are worth 30% of final mark in course.
Reporting	Provincial, district, individual

2. Other Tests

	Grades 1-6	Grades 7-12
Canadian Tests of Basic Skills	District discretion.	District discretion.
GED Tests		Post-secondary only. It is available across the province for adults who don't have a high school diploma.
Other Tests	District developed tests.	District developed tests.
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	District discretion	District discretion
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	Less than 10%	Less than 10%

New Brunswick (Anglophone)

3. New tests planned or under development.

Grade 3, 6, and 9 Cyclical Testing, one grade per year in science, mathematics, reading and writing. 1995 grade 3, 1996 grade 6, 1997 grade 9, repeat cycle.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

Undergraduate degree: None

Apprenticeship Degree: Yes - Provincial and interprovincial examinations (as per all provinces/territories).

College Diploma: None

Adults wishing certification by the province for academic upgrading activities must write a provincial examination (26 subject areas). Frequency is "on demand".

The GED tests are an optional service for adults.

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New Brunswick (Francophone)

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 4 and 8	Grades 10 to 12
Name	Français et mathématiques	Examens de fin d'études secondaires
Purposes	1. Diagnostic purposes 2. Monitor provincial situation	1. Certification 2. Monitor provincial situation
Format	Short, written response	Short, written response
Type (CRT, NRT)		
Subjects/Grades	Français 4 and 8 Mathematics 4 and 8	Geography 10 History 11 Physics 10 Chemistry 11 Mathematics 11 Français 12 English (Second Language) 10
Frequency	Annually (in September)	January and June
Sample (State %) or all students	Mandatory for all students.	Mandatory for all students.
Stakes for individual student	None.	40% of final mark.
Reporting	Marks are sent to schools, districts, and the Minister.	Marks are sent to schools, districts, and the Minister.

2. Other Tests

	Primary	Secondary
Canadian Tests of Basic Skills (level/form)	No	No
Other		PIRS Mathematics 1993 Français 1994 Science 1996
GED Test		New Brunswick Community College

New Brunswick (Francophone)

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

3. New tests planned or under development.

Beginning in June 1994, there will be tests in English as a second language. In primary (grades 1-8), math and French tests will be administered to all students in grade 4 in September 1994. In September 1995, French and math tests will be administered to all grade 4 and 8 students.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

None

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ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 5 and 6	Grades 9 and 12
Name	1. Language Arts Assessment 2. Mathematics Assessment	Nova Scotia Achievement Tests
Purpose	To evaluate the effectiveness of programs and to provide information on strengths and weaknesses in order to improve programs and instructional strategies.	To evaluate the effectiveness of programs and to provide information on strengths and weaknesses in order to improve programs and instructional strategies.
Format	1. Portfolio 2. Multiple choice and performance assessment	Multiple choice (1994 pilot of a writing sample as well)
Type	1. Criterion referenced 2. Criterion referenced, norm referenced	Norm referenced
Subjects/Grades	1. Language Arts - Grade 6 English and French 2. Math - Grade 5 English and French	Tests are in grades 9 and 12: Mathematics Science Language Arts Social Studies
Frequency	Has been annual but likely to be every second year.	Annually
Sample (State %) or all students	1. Portfolio - sample (33%) to represent each board 2. Multiple choice - all students; performance - sample	All students in grade 9 and grade 12.
Stakes for individual student	Low stakes	Low stakes - do not count for graduation.
Reporting	Board and provincial results are reported provincially. School results are reported locally at their discretion but must be provided by province if requested under Freedom of Information Act.	Board and provincial results are reported provincially. School results are reported locally at their discretion but must be provided by province if requested under Freedom of Information Act.

2. Other Tests

	Grades 5 and 6	Grades 9 and 12
Canadian Tests of Basic Skills and Canadian Achievement Test	Boards have the option of using CTBS, CAT or other tests at their discretion. Province does not mandate their use.	Boards have the option of using CTBS, CAT or other tests at their discretion. Province does not mandate their use.
GED Test		Grade 12 Equivalency (GED) program provided by department.
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	Province does not mandate. Boards may use these or others as they decide.	Province does not mandate. Boards may use these or others as they decide.
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	Possibly up to 75% of boards use some of them from time to time.	Possibly up to 75% of boards use some of them from time to time.

3. New tests planned or under development.

Assessments will be revised in conjunction with work on outcomes-based education, both at the department level and regional initiatives under the Maritime Provinces Education Foundation. These initiatives include current development of curriculum and assessment in senior high mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, and future development in the areas of language arts, mathematics and science – primary to senior high.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

None

Block/Level Exams are administered to graduates of community college programs in any of the designated trades which can be used for credit purposes in their future apprenticeship programs.

For further information: Bette Kelly
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Fax: 902-424-0614

Prince Edward Island

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

None are used at present.

2. Other Tests

SAIP Assessments.

3. New tests planned or under development.

The development of joint assessment strategies is being discussed as part of the Atlantic Region Common Curriculum Initiative.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

No common test.

For further information: Parnell Garland
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ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Provincial Tests

	Grades 3 and 6	Grade 12
Name	1. Science Test 2. Mathematics 3. Assessment of Writing	Public Examinations
Purpose	1. To assess performance relative to the objectives of the elementary science program. 2. To assess performance of the students relative to course objectives. 3. To determine levels of writing proficiency of Newfoundland students.	Student evaluation
Format	1. Multiple choice 2. Multiple choice 3. Authentic Writing Activity	Multiple choice, completions, and extended response items
Type (CRT, NRT)	1. Criterion referenced 2. Criterion referenced 3. Criterion referenced	Criterion referenced
Subjects/Grades	1. Administered at the end of Grade 6 (also includes items from Grades 4 and 5) 2. Grades 3 and 6 (Grade 9 to be developed) 3. Grade 3 (Grades 6 and 9 to be developed)	Literature (3 courses) Language (2 courses) Mathematics (3 courses) Science (5 courses) French (1 course) Social Studies (4 courses)
Frequency	1. Every 3 years 2. Every 2-3 years 3. Every 2-3 years	Final Examinations (June) Supplementary Exams (November)
Sample (State %) or all students	1. All students 2. All students 3. 1,000 students (stratified sample by school)	All students taking the particular 3000 level course.

Newfoundland

1. **Provincial Tests (Continued)**

	Grades 3 and 6	Grade 12
Stakes for individual student	Not used for student evaluation (i.e., promotion, placement)	Represents 50% of the student's final course
Reporting	1. Data for province and school district in public domain. (Student data returned to schools). 2. By province and by district (published). By school available to district offices only and individual results returned to schools. 3. By province. (Individual results returned to schools).	Summary data by province and by district. (Individual transcripts are sent to students and to schools).

2. **Other Tests**

Canadian Tests of Basic Skills (level/form)	Grade 4 (L10, form 7) Grade 6 (L12, form 7) Grade 8 (L14, form 7)	Grade 12 (Level 18, Form 7)
GED Test		GED is available by individual request, and administered at centres around the province.
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	CTBS - Mandated	CTBS - Mandated GED - Individual decision
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	CTBS - All	CTBS - Random sample, all districts included. GED - Individual decision

3. New tests planned or under development.

Criterion-referenced tests are to be developed for all major subject areas (languages, mathematics, science, and social studies) for grades 3, 6, and 9.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

Undergraduate degree:	NO [1]
Apprenticeship programs:	YES [2]
College diploma:	Depends [3]

1. While "all" students do not write common tests, students at the undergraduate level will write common exams if their professional goals require such, e.g., Medical School.

2. All students write the respective journeyman exam that pertains to their apprenticeships.

3. Some diplomas relate to occupations with external licensing requirements that call for common exams - e.g., Nursing, Marine Navigation.

For further information: Willis Jacobs
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Fax: 709-729-5896

Northwest Territories

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Territorial Tests

	Elementary	Grade 12
Name	None	Alberta Diploma Exams
Purpose		Refer to Alberta response.

2. Other Tests

Canadian Achievement Test	Local decision		Local decision	
GED Test			Administered by Arctic College.	
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	**CAT**	Discretionary	**CAT**	Discretionary
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	**CAT**	10%	**CAT**	10%

3. New tests planned or under development.

None

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

Undergraduate degree: None
Apprenticeship programs: None
College diploma None

For further information: Derek Green
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Fax: 403-873-0155

Yukon

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY

1. Territorial Tests

	Elementary	Grades 8 to 12
Name	None	Diagnostic Assessment
Purpose		To provide teachers with information based on the Intended Learning Outcomes
Format		Multiple choice
Type		Criterion referenced
Subjects/Grades		Mathematics 8-12
Frequency		5 curriculum strands per year
Sample (State %) or all students		All students enrolled in a regular academic math course.
Stakes for individual student		Does not count for placement.
Reporting		Local and territorial

2. Other Tests

Canadian Tests of Basic Skills	Grades 3 to 6	Grades 7 and 8
Other tests		Grade 12 Departmentals British Columbia
Does the province mandate the test or do districts have discretion in using them?	**CTBS** mandated	**CTBS** mandated
What proportion of school districts use these tests?	**CTBS** all	**CTBS** all

3. New tests planned or under development.

We are planning to implement diagnostic assessment from grades 4 to 12 in mathematics, science, and possibly social studies and language arts over the course of the next 4 to 6 years.

POST-SECONDARY

4. Common tests that all students must write during their post-secondary career.

No common assessments at post-secondary.
Use GED for college preparation students.

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